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QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. DISCUSS THE JUNE 1 GENERAL CROP CONDITION.
2. HOW DOES MAY MILK PRODUCTION THIS YEAR COMPARE WITH PRODUCTION IN MAY 1950?
3. WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED SIZE OF THE 1951 PEACH CROP?
4. SUMMARIZE MAY WEATHER CONDITIONS.
5. WHY DID EGG PRODUCTION DECLINE IN MAY?
6. WHAT IS THE CURRENT WHEAT PRODUCTION ESTIMATE?
7. DID LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER INCREASE OR DECREASE IN APRIL?
8. DISCUSS THE OUTLOOK FOR THE VARIOUS TRUCK CROPS.
9. WHAT IS THE PROSPECTIVE PRODUCTION OF COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES?

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JUN 28 1951

JUNE 15, 1951

No. 87

RALEIGH, N. C.

JUNE 1, 1951 GENERAL FARM REPORT

JUNE 1 CROP OUTLOOK NOT TOO GOOD

North Carolina spring planted crops were in the grip of a severe drought as of June 1. With the exception of a very few limited areas, most of the state was going into its sixth week of dry weather. Cool nights during most of this period had also done much to paint a discouraging picture for spring planted crops as of June 1.

Crops which suffered most from dry weather were tobacco, corn, cotton, hays and pastures. Fall sown small grain crops were practically "made" before the shortage of moisture reached serious proportions. A record yield for wheat is in prospect with the June 1 forecast of production 40 percent above last year and the largest since 1947. Rye production is expected to show little change from last year although yields will be better. The first production forecast for oats this year indicates

(Continued on Page 2)

PEACH PROSPECTS GOOD

The June 1 forecast of peach production, based on reports from peach growers throughout the State, is placed at 2,772,000 bushels. This is the same as the May 1 estimate and represents the largest crop since 1947. If this estimate materializes, the 1951 crop will be the fourth largest of record and compares with the 1940-49 average production of 2,158,000 bushels.

Dry soil conditions resulted in a heavier May drop than usual, however, the set of fruit was quite heavy this year and a good peach crop remains on the trees. In the commercial producing sandhills area, general rains fell on the 3rd and 4th of June, relieving drought conditions.

Harvest of the early Mountain Rose variety began during the week of May 21 in the sandhills. Harvesting of the Redbird variety will start about June 10; Golden Jubilee June 25; Hileys about July 1; and Elbertas

(Continued on Page 3)

MAY MILK PRODUCTION SETS NEW RECORD

Estimated milk production in North Carolina during May was the highest of record.

May milk production is estimated at 162 million pounds. This compares with 148 million pounds in April and 156 million pounds in May 1950. Production of milk per cow during May is estimated at 425 pounds. This compares with 388 pounds in April and 422 pounds in May of 1950.

The record May milk production per cow was established in 1949 at 426 pounds. Hence, increased numbers of milk cows accounted entirely for the record May production. An estimated 382,000 milk cows were on farms during May as compared to 374,000 in May of 1950 and 357,000 during May of 1949.

Milk production during May would probably have been higher had it not been for the decrease in the condition of pastures. Pasture con-

(Continued on Page 2)

RECORD BROILER OUTPUT CONTINUES

Chick placements in the Chatham-Wilkes Commercial broiler areas during May totalled 2,389,000 -- up 4 percent from the 2,295,000 chicks placed with broiler producers in April. Placements during the month exceeded those made during May of last year by 36 percent and set a new May record for the number of broiler chicks placed in the two areas.

Reports from hatcherymen serving the two areas indicate 2,915,000 eggs were placed in incubators during May. This was slightly below the 3,010,000 eggs set in April but 31 percent greater than May settings last year.

Chicks hatched at 2,358,000 was 2 percent under April hatchings but 38 percent greater than the 1,713,000 chicks hatched in May, 1950.

Demand for finished broilers has continued strong throughout the month and prices have held from 3 to 4 cents per pound higher than a year ago.

PROSPECTIVE NORTH CAROLINA WHEAT YIELD HIGHEST OF RECORD



IRISH POTATO PROSPECTS GOOD

Commercial early Irish potato production in North Carolina is currently estimated at 3,564,000 bushels -- 45 percent less than the 6,425,000 bushels produced in 1950 and 32 percent under the 1940-49 average production of 5,211,000 bushels.

Reports from growers as of June 1 indicate an average yield of 220 bushels per acre. This is 30 bushels per acre less than the 250 bushels harvested a year ago but 36 percent above the 10-year average yield of 162 bushels per acre.

An estimated 16,200 acres of commercial early Irish potatoes will be harvested in the State this year. This compares with 25,700 acres harvested in 1950 and the 10-year average of 32,550 acres.

The unusually cool weather this spring delayed maturity of the crop, and in some areas dry soil conditions during May caused some damage. Harvesting of the crop is now underway in the State and movement is expected to reach peak in most sections about June 15.

Prospects for the California crop improved somewhat during the past month. Production is now estimated at 21,070,000 bushels or 32 percent less than the 31,200,000 bushels produced last year but only 2 percent under the 1940-49 average production. The average yield in California this year is expected to be 430 bushels per acre, compared with 400 bushels per acre harvested in 1950.

Total production for the late spring group of states (including North Carolina) is estimated at 30,728,000 bushels -- 30 percent less than the 43,930,000 bushels produced last year. The 10-year average production is 34,957,000 bushels.

Business activity still continues high - supports strong demand for farm products.

GOOD PEAR CROP FORECAST

Reports from growers as of June 1 indicate the 1951 pear crop will be nearly double last year's production. The present estimate of 292,000 bushels compares with 150,000 bushels harvested last year and the 1940-49 average production of 266,000 bushels. A crop of this size would be the largest produced in the State since 1947.

Prospective U.-S. production at 31,295,000 bushels is slightly less than the 31,140,000 bushels produced in 1950 but 1 percent above the 1940-49 average.

MILK PRODUCTION (Continued)

dition declined from 87 percent on May 1 to 73 percent on June 1. Prolonged dry weather damaged pastures considerably.

Milk production on United States farms in May is estimated at 11,856 million pounds, up fractionally from the 11,840 million pounds produced in May 1950, but slightly below the 10-year average May output of 11,885 million pounds.

In the first 5 months of this year, milk production totaled 49.4 billion pounds, about 1.5 percent below a year ago. Production of milk per capita in May 1951 averaged 2.49 pounds per day -- the lowest for the month in records dating back to 1930.

RYE ACREAGE CONTINUES DECLINE

The acreage of rye harvested for grain in North Carolina has been gradually declining since 1934. Acreage estimated for harvest this year at 16,000 acres is the lowest of record and compares with 18,000 acres in 1950 and the average of 33,000 acres.

Production prospects, however, are slightly above 1950 due to above average yields. Based on June 1 reports from growers a yield of 13.0 bushels is indicated which would mean a production of 208,000 bushels compared with 207,000 in 1950 and the average of 362,000 bushels.

HAY PROSPECTS DECLINE

Farmers in North Carolina reported a condition of only 74 percent of normal for all hay as of June 1. This compares with a 10-year average condition of 80 percent for this date. Dry soil conditions during the preceding month accounted largely for the poor condition of hay crops.

JUNE 1 CROP OUTLOOK (Continued)

a crop 4.6 percent larger than in 1950 and the second largest of record. Production prospects for barley are 8 percent above 1950.

Pastures were hit hard by the severe dry weather. June 1 condition of pastures was 73 percent normal -- a drop of 14 points from reported condition a month earlier. The condition of hay crops was also reduced sharply during the month due to dry weather. The June 1 condition of all hays was 74 percent normal, or 14 points down from May 1. Cutting of grain hays made good progress during the month with some second cuttings of alfalfa being made. Dry, open weather favored curing and housing of hays cut at this time.

WHEAT PROSPECTS UNUSUALLY GOOD

Production prospects for wheat improved considerably during the month of May. Although severe dry weather existed over most of the state as of June 1, this drought was too late to materially effect the wheat crop.

Based on reports from growers as of June 1 indicated production now stands at 7,638,000 bushels. This would be 40 percent greater than production in 1950 and 12 percent above the 10-year average.

A record yield of 19.0 bushels per acre is indicated for the current crop. This compares with 14.5 bushels in 1950 and the average of 15.2 bushels.

Principal factors contributing to the unusually good prospects for the crop were a highly favorable winter and early spring growing period, excellent stooling of plants, and the high percentage of Atlas varieties seeded this year.

Acreage for harvest in North Carolina this year is expected to total 402,000 acres compared with 375,000 last year and the average of 448,000 acres.

Winter wheat production for the Nation is currently estimated at 705.2 million bushels, or an increase of 23 million bushels over the production forecast of a month earlier. Production of winter wheat last year totaled 750.7 million bushels.

PROSPECTIVE OATS CROP SECOND LARGEST OF RECORD

Based upon June 1 conditions of oats, a crop of 12,400,000 bushels is forecast for North Carolina. If current prospects materialize, this year's crop will be the second largest of record, exceeded only in 1946 when 12,870,000 bushels were harvested. Production last year amounted to 11,859,000 bushels. The 1940-49 average for the State is about 9 million bushels.

National production this year, now set at 1.3 billion bushels, is somewhat below the 1.5 billion bushels harvested last year but is about the same as the 10-year average.

BARLEY PRODUCTION UP

According to recent reports from barley growers, a crop of 960,000 bushels is expected from this year's crop. Production from the 1950 crop amounted to 888,000 bushels while the 1940-49 average for the State is 881,000 bushels.

A National crop of 255 million is in prospect. This is about 15 percent less than last year's production.

AVERAGE PRICES PAID FOR FURNITURE BY NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARMERS, WITH COMPARISONS, 1950-1951

ITEMS	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		DEC. 15 1950	MAR. 15 1951	MAR. 15 1950	DEC. 15 1950	MAR. 15 1951	MAR. 15 1950
DOLLARS							
RUGS, AXMINSTER, 9' x 12'.....	EACH	73.00	76.00	62.00	79.80	86.40	67.90
RUGS, FELT BASE, 9' x 12'.....	EACH	10.50	11.00	10.50	10.30	10.50	9.89
DINING-ROOM SUITES.....	EACH	210.00	225.00	210.00	221.00	231.00	197.00
LIVING-ROOM SUITES.....	EACH	145.00	155.00	130.00	174.00	183.00	159.00
BEDROOM SUITES.....	EACH	145.00	155.00	125.00	163.00	170.00	148.00
BEDSTEADS, METAL, DOUBLE.....	EACH	14.50	15.00	13.50	14.90	15.30	13.30
MATTRESSES 54", FELTED COTTON.....	EACH	25.00	26.50	20.50	22.80	23.90	19.50
BED SPRINGS, DOUBLE, SAGLESS.....	EACH	17.00	18.00	15.00	17.40	18.10	15.60
KITCHEN CABINETS.....	EACH	56.00	56.00	50.00	57.10	58.50	52.50
STOVES, 6-HOLE KITCHEN RANGES.....	EACH	91.00	92.00	81.00	115.00	117.00	103.00
WASHING MACHINES, ELECTRIC.....	EACH	135.00	135.00	120.00	128.00	132.00	117.00

FURNITURE PRICES UP SHARPLY

Following the pattern of food and clothing items, prices North Carolina farmers paid for specified furniture items advanced sharply during the year ended March 15. Price increases ranged from 5 to 29 percent during the period.

Mattresses were up 29 percent; bedroom suits 24 percent, bed springs 20 percent and living room suites 19 percent from the preceding year. The smallest price gains were made by felt base rugs and dining room suites which advanced 5 and 7 percent respectively.

Indications point to a 5 percent increase in young chickens on farms so far this year. This suggests more chickens will be raised this year than last and more potential layers January 1, 1952.

PEACH PROSPECTS (Continued)

about July 17.

In the 10 Southern States prospects declined about 2 percent during May, from 17,699,000 bushels to 17,317,000 bushels. The 1950 crop for these States was 6,103,000 bushels. Many areas in these States had very little rain during May. The crop was suffering from lack of moisture on June 1 but good rains have been received since the first of the month.

PEACH PRODUCTION

STATE	AVERAGE 1940-49	1950	IND. 1951
THOUSAND BUSHELS			
N. C.....	2,158	548	2,772
S. C.....	3,793	468	6,240
GA.....	4,790	975	4,410
FLA.....	90	56	83
ALA.....	1,509	440	460
MISS.....	815	286	325
ARK.....	2,206	1,980	900
LA.....	296	189	204
OKLA.....	471	378	473
TEX.....	1,777	783	1,450
10 STATES	17,711	6,103	17,317

TRUCK CROP PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

SNAPBEANS: Production from North Carolina's late spring snapbean crop is currently estimated at 420,000 bushels. This compares with 462,000 bushels produced in 1950 and the 10-year average production of 392,000 bushels. Harvest was in full swing on June 1 in most of the commercial producing areas of the State and peak movement was expected in most areas during the week of June 4. Except in the Currituck area, dry soil conditions during May reduced yields and quality to some extent.

CABBAGE: Reports from growers as of June 1 indicate production from North Carolina's 2,600 acres of late spring cabbage will be 15,600 tons -- a yield of 6.0 tons per acre. Last year's production totalled 14,300 tons from the same acreage for an average yield of 5.6 tons. Harvesting operations were virtually over in most sections on June 1. In the Weeksville area peak movement was expected during the week of June 4.

CUCUMBERS: June 1 condition reports on North Carolina's fresh market cucumber crop point to a total production of 552,000 bushels, or an average yield of 80 bushels per acre from 6,900 acres. Last year's production amounted to 483,000 bushels from the same acreage for an average yield of 70 bushels per acre. The 10-year average production is 391,000 bushels from 5,160 acres.

For the late spring group of states (including North Carolina) production is estimated at 2,007,000 bushels -- 6 percent less than the 2,139,000 bushels produced in 1950 but 10 percent above the 1940-49 average.

GREEN PEPPERS: According to reports from growers 4,700 acres of green peppers will be available for harvest this year -- an increase of 18 percent over the 4,000 acres harvested last year. Production is currently estimated at 658,000 bushels for an average yield of 140 bushels per acre. In 1950, 500,000 bushels were produced and the average yield was 125 bushels per acre.

Total production for the early summer group of states (including

North Carolina) is estimated at 1,044,000 bushels -- up 30 percent from last year.

STRAWBERRIES: As of June 1, strawberry harvest was virtually complete in North Carolina. Production from the 2,200 acres harvested this year is estimated at 220,000 crates or 100 crates per acre. This year's production compares with 145,000 crates produced on 2,300 acres in 1950 for an average of 63 crates per acre.

Production for the mid-spring group of states is expected to be 5,391,000 crates from 62,850 acres. Last year 4,564,000 crates were produced on 53,700 acres in this group of states.

TOMATOES: Preliminary reports from growers indicate 600 acres of tomatoes for harvest in North Carolina this year. This is an increase of 20 percent over the 500 acres harvested in 1950. Production is estimated at 42,000 bushels -- up 11 percent from the 38,000 bushels harvested last year.

In the early summer group of states (including North Carolina) an estimated 31,650 acres of tomatoes will be available for harvest. Production is estimated at 5,054,000 bushels -- up 16 percent from the 4,345,000 bushels produced last year.

EGG PRODUCTION DOWN SEASONALLY

North Carolina farm flocks produced 111 million eggs during the month of May -- 6 million under April production and 7 percent less than the 119 million eggs produced on Tar Heel farms during May of last year.

The decrease in total production was due to a decline in the number of layers as well as a lower daily rate of lay.

The number of layers on farms in May is estimated at 6,698,000 as compared with 6,866,000 in April and 7,088,000 in May 1950.

The rate of lay per 100 layers during May was 1,662 eggs. The April rate was 1,698 eggs per 100 layers.

FARM REPORT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Raleigh, N. C.

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(PMGC)

Compiled by authority of the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
S. R. Newell, Assistant Chief
and published by the
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Statistics
L.Y. Ballentine, Commissioner of Agriculture

Released semi-monthly through the
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh
R.B. Converse, Statistician, Acting in Charge
Donald B. Jones, Statistical Editor

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JUNE 15, 1951

FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

MAY WEATHER SUMMARY

May of this year brought to North Carolina more than its share of fair weather. In most parts of the State, the sun shone uninterrupted through one-third of the days of the month, and on most other days there was plenty of intermittent sunshine between passing clouds. Only the gloom preceding the tropical storm that passed off Hatteras the third week of the month succeeded in obscuring the sun over parts of the State for a whole day. Lesser storms had begun disturbing the coast on the 17th, and continued to do so until the 21st, when a hurricane which had first been spotted in the Bahamas a few days before moved slowly northward past the North Carolina coast about fifty miles off Cape Hatteras.

Temperatures throughout the State averaged very close to normal for the month. At most places the mercury rose to near 90 degrees sometime during the first three days of the month, and again near the 22nd. It was also warm near the 10th and 15th, and many stations again reached 90 on the last day of the month. Except for these days, top temperatures ranged generally between 70 and 85. The date on which the coolest night temperatures were recorded varied considerably from place to place, depending on local conditions, but few temperatures below 40 degrees were reported except in mountain areas. Frost occurred occasionally in the mountains during the first ten days.

May was a very dry month except in the northeastern coastal section. Average rainfall for the State was about two inches below normal, with many places more than three inches below. Totals for the month of less than half an inch were common in the Piedmont section.

NORTH CAROLINA & UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER APRIL 1950-51*

SPECIES	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWIGHT	
	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951
CATTLE ...	6.0	5.9	4,907	4,666	1,322.9	1,227.3	1,265,083	1,195,634
CALVES....	5.4	4.1	873	708	834.5	677.6	155,032	117,755
SHEEP & LAMBS....	.1	.2	6	15	921.8	719.6	91,295	73,861
HOGS.....	30,0	43,0	6,699	9,154	5,226.5	5,964.8	1,223,525	1,414,763

* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

APRIL SLAUGHTER UP 16%

Commercial meat production in North Carolina during April, 1951 totalled 14,543,000 pounds. This was a 2 percent decrease from the 14,850,000 pounds produced during March but 16 percent more than the 12,485,000 pounds produced during April 1950.

The total number of animals slaughtered during April of this year at 53,200 head was 28 percent greater than a year earlier. The number of cattle and calves slaughtered was down from the April 1950 total while hog slaughter showed a sharp increase.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING MAY, 1951

